

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 SR-02

ORM-01 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SCA-01 AID-05 /107 W

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P R 252257Z JUN 75

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 877

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, UNRWA, XF

SUBJECT: UNRWA WORKING GROUP ENGAGES REGIONAL GROUPS EFFORTS
TO ASSIST AGENCY

REF: STATE 146786

1. TAKING ADVANTAGE OF COMMISSIONER GENERAL RENNIE'S UNEXPECTED
PRESENCE IN NEW YORK, UNRWA WORKING GROUP MET JUNE 24 TO HEAR
FIRST-HAND DESCRIPTION OF EXTENSIVE CUTBACKS AGENCY WILL SOON HAVE
TO CARRY OUT IF DEFICIT IS NOT GREATLY REDUCED. RENNIE DESCRIBED
BLEAK ALTERNATIVES FACING UNRWA -- 50 PERCENT CUT IN RATIONS AND
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ELIMINATION OF 2/3 OR MORE OF SCHOOL PROGRAM -- IN TERMS FAM-

ILIR TO ADDRESSEES FROM REPORTS OF ADCOM MEETINGS AND PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS.

2. US REP USED OCCASION TO ANNOUNCE THAT US ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION OF \$6 MILLION HAD BEEN APPROVED AND WOULD PROBABLY BE PRESENTED TO UN NEXT WEEK. WE NOTED THAT TOTAL US CONTRIBUTION FOR CY 1975 WAS NOW \$39.2 MILLION. POINTING OUT THAT ADDITIONAL US CONTRIBUTION WAS A CONGRESSIONAL INITIATIVE, WE SAID ACTION DEMONSTRATED CONGRESS' COMMITMENT TO A JUST POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF THE PALESTINE PROBLEM AS WELL AS TO HUMANITARIAN RELIEF FOR THE REFUGEES. WE HOPED US CONTRIBUTION WOULD PROMPT OTHERS TO HELP, PARTICULARLY THOSE MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES THAT HAVE NOT CONTRIBUTED IN PROPORTION TO THEIR RESOURCES.

3. AFTER EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS TO USG FROM CHAIR AND ALL WORKING GROUP MEMBERS, DISCUSSION TURNED TO ACTIONS GROUP MIGHT TAKE TO ENCOURAGE FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS. SUGGESTION THAT WAS DISPOSED OF QUICKEST WAS LEBANESE IDEA THAT MATTER BE REFERRED BACK TO ADCOM FOR ITS VIEWS. RENNIE SAID HE HAD TWICE ASKED ADCOM FOR ITS ADVICE, AND "IT HAD TWICE RESOLUTELY REFUSED TO GIVE IT." AFTER VARIOUS IDEAS WERE CONSIDERED, US REP SUGGESTED THAT ONE WAY OF MAKING CERTAIN UNRWA'S DESPERATE SITUATION WAS ACCURATELY CONVEYED TO ALL UN MEMBERS WOULD BE TO HAVE COMMISSIONER GENERAL HIMSELF MEET WHILE IN NEW YORK WITH CHAIRMEN OF REGIONAL GROUPS, TOGETHER WITH NON-ALIGNED AND ARAB GROUP CHAIRMEN. TO ADD DRAMATIC IMPACT, SYG MIGHT BE ASKED TO CONVENE MEETING IN HIS OFFICE. FRANCE SUPPORTED PROPOSAL, AND IT WAS AGREED. AFTER WORKING GROUP ADJOURNED, CHAIRMAN CONTACTED SYG WHO AGREED TO CHAIR MEETING BETWEEN RENNIE AND THE REGIONAL, ARAB AND NON-ALIGNED GROUP CHAIRMEN AT 6:00 PM, JUNE 25.
BENNETT

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